

## Wiley Rein & Fielding LLP



1776 K STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20006
PHONE 202.719.7000
FAX 202.719.7049

Virginia Office
7925 JONES BRANCH DRIVE
SUITE 6200
McLEAN, VA 22102
PHONE 703.905.2800
FAX 703.905.2820

www.wrf.com

December 8, 2004

**ORIGINAL** 

John M. Burgett 202-719-4239 jburgett@wrf.com

## **By Hand Delivery**

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch Secretary Federal Communications Commission 236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 110 Washington, DC 20002 RECEIVED

DEC - 8 2004

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Re:

Ex Parte Notification

CS Docket Nos. 98-120 and 00-96

MB Docket No. 03-15 MM Docket No. 99-360 MB Docket No. 04-233

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On December 7, 2004, Robert Decherd, President and Chief Executive Officer of Belo Corp. ("Belo"), Guy Kerr, Senior Vice President of Belo, Dunia Shive, Executive Vice President of Belo, and DeDe Lea, Vice President of Belo, met with Chairman Michael Powell and his Legal Advisor, Jonathan Cody. The Belo representatives were accompanied by Richard Wiley, counsel for Belo.

In the meeting, Belo discussed its support for a date certain to end the DTV transition, but emphasized that the government should not set an end-date without first establishing cable carriage requirements and finalizing a plan to ensure that over-the-air viewers are not abandoned. Belo also discussed broadcasters' public interest responsibilities and their commitment to meeting the needs of their stations' local communities. In this regard, Belo cautioned the Commission to be mindful and flexible when applying new regulations because digital broadcasting is still relatively new and the broadcast industry needs the ability to develop business models that will work in this new era without being encumbered by unnecessary regulations.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules, an original and nine copies (two copies for each docket) of this letter are being submitted to the Secretary's office, with a copy to those at the FCC who participated in the meeting.

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Please direct any questions regarding this notice to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Durgen.

cc: Chairman Michael Powell

Jonathan Cody